

Authority: Planning and Housing Committee Item
PH23.11, as adopted by City of Toronto Council on July 23
and 24, 2025
City Council voted in favour of this by-law on July 24,
2025
Written approval of this by-law was given by Mayoral
Decision 11-2025 dated July 24, 2025

CITY OF TORONTO

BY-LAW 791-2025

To designate the property at 667 King Street West as being of cultural heritage value or interest.

Whereas the Ontario Heritage Act authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact By-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest; and

Whereas authority was granted by Council to designate the property at 667 King Street West as being of cultural heritage value or interest; and

Whereas the Council of the City of Toronto has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known as 667 King Street West and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, Notice of Intention to designate the property, and has caused the Notice of Intention to be posted on the City's website for a period of 30 days in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 162, Notice, Public, Article II, § 162-4.1. Notice requirements under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

Whereas notice of objection was served upon the Clerk of the municipality within the prescribed time under the Ontario Heritage Act and was considered by City Council; and

Whereas the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule A to this By-law;

The Council of the City of Toronto enacts:

- 1.** The property at 667 King Street West, more particularly described in Schedule B attached to this By-law, is designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest.
- 2.** The City Solicitor is authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule B to this By-law in the proper Land Registry Office.
- 3.** The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the owners of the property 667 King Street West at and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this By-law to be posted on the City's website for a period of 30 days in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 162, Notice, Public, Article II, § 162-4.1. Notice requirements under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Enacted and passed on July 24, 2025.

Frances Nunziata,
Speaker

John D. Elvidge,
City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

SCHEDULE A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE 667 King Street West

Reasons for Designation

Description

Located at the southwest corner of King Street West and Bathurst Street, the property at 667 King Street West, known as the Wheatsheaf Tavern, contains a 2½-storey former inn and tavern on a rectangular plan that is fashioned in Second Empire style details. A Pre-Confederation building that was constructed in 1849, the property is a rare surviving example of an early-19th century hotel and bar that has been in operation at the same location for over 150 years. The Wheatsheaf Tavern continues to be the oldest bar in Toronto and serves as a neighbourhood landmark.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The property at 667 King Street West has design and physical value as a rare surviving Pre-Confederation example of the hotels that came to define the City of Toronto during the mid-19th century with Second Empire style details. The style can be seen in the mansard roof with round-headed arched dormer windows with ornamental scrollwork in their wooden surrounds, the wooden brackets at the eaves and the ornamented pediment, the truncated corner tower, the regularly spaced flat-headed window openings with sills and brick voussoirs in the second storey, and the flat-headed window openings with sills in the first storey. The style can further be seen in the primary corner entrance and in the north elevation fronting King Street West in the brick pilasters that are set below a frieze and cornice and in the chimney that appears in the elevation fronting Bathurst Street. While modern additions have been made to the property during the 20th-century south along Bathurst Street, the 19th-century portion of the building that was used as an inn and tavern remains evident in the rectangular form and massing, the 2½-storey scale, and in the materials, including the red and buff brick.

The subject property has additional design and physical value as it displays a high degree of craftsmanship through its Second Empire style details that were restored in 1995/6.

The property at 667 King Street West is valued for its association with the Wheatsheaf Tavern, a business that has continued to serve the community in this location for over 150 years. Well before Confederation, the Wheatsheaf Tavern functioned as an inn and tavern for men in the community and served stagecoach travellers, soldiers, railway men, students, and sports fans. A beloved establishment in the community, the Wheatsheaf Tavern continues to welcome live music and sports lovers through its doors today.

Contextually, the Wheatsheaf Tavern is important in defining, maintaining, and supporting the historic character of the West Queen West neighbourhood today and is physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. Located at and oriented with a primary entrance to face the southwest corner of King Street West and Bathurst Street, the Wheatsheaf Tavern holds a prominent position on the street and is located in an area that was largely developed by the end

of the 19th century. Most of these original properties along King Street West between Bathurst and Tecumseth streets have been redeveloped, so the Wheatsheaf Tavern is a rare surviving remnant dating to that century of construction activity. The Wheatsheaf Tavern is also located immediately west of the boundary of the King Spadina Heritage Conservation District, which is in force, and is surrounded by numerous properties east of Bathurst Street that are listed or designated on the City's Heritage Register. The subject property once sat facing the Canadian Biscuit Co. building (later Bank of Montreal) at 665 King Street West at the southeast corner and the Toronto Dominion Bank building at 668 King Street West the northeast corner, however, the latter has been demolished and the former is only being partially retained (Figure 17, Figure 18). The property at the northwest corner of King Street West and Bathurst Street was also redeveloped after 1978. The subject property at 667 King Street west is the only remaining intact historic structure at this intersection and is amongst the rare few Pre-Confederation buildings that continues in operation today.

A Pre-Confederation building in operation for over 150 years at the same location at the corner of King Street West and Bathurst Street, the Wheatsheaf Tavern continues to be the oldest bar in Toronto and serves as a neighbourhood landmark.

Heritage Attributes

Design or Physical Value

Attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the property at 667 King Street West as a rare surviving Pre-Confederation example of the of the hotels that came to define the City of Toronto during the mid-19th century with Second Empire style details and displaying a high degree of craftsmanship:

- The placement, setback, and orientation of the structure at the corner of King Street West and Bathurst Street where it has been located since 1849
- The 2½-storey scale, rectangular form, and massing
- The materials, including the red and buff brick
- The mansard roof with round-headed arched dormer windows with ornamental scrollwork in their wooden surrounds
- The wooden brackets at the eaves
- The ornamented pediment above the second storey
- The truncated corner tower with an entrance in the first storey
- The regularly spaced flat-headed window openings with sills and brick voussoirs in the second storey
- The flat-headed window openings with sills in the first storey

- The brick pilasters that are set below a frieze and cornice in the first storey
- The chimney that appears in the elevation fronting Bathurst Street.

Historical or Associative Value

Attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the property at 667 King Street West as being associated with the Wheatsheaf Tavern, which has continued to serve the community in this location for over 150 years:

- The placement, setback, and orientation of the structure at the corner of King Street West and Bathurst Street where it has been located since 1849
- The 2½-storey scale, rectangular form, and massing

Contextual Value

Attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the Wheatsheaf Tavern as defining, maintaining, and supporting the historic character of the West Queen West neighbourhood today and being physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings:

- The placement, setback, and orientation of the structure at the corner of King Street West and Bathurst Street where it has been located since 1849
- The 2½-storey scale, rectangular form, and massing
- The materials, including the red and buff brick
- The mansard roof with round-headed arched dormer windows with ornamental scrollwork in their wooden surrounds
- The truncated corner tower with an entrance in the first storey
- The chimney that appears in the elevation fronting Bathurst Street

Attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the property at 667 King Street West as being a neighbourhood landmark:

- The placement, setback, and orientation of the structure at the corner of King Street West and Bathurst Street where it has been located since 1849
- The 2½-storey scale, rectangular form, and massing

SCHEDULE B
LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PIN 21241-0156 (R)

PART OF LOT 1, SECTION L, PLAN OF MILITARY RESERVE
AS IN CA372071

City of Toronto and Province of Ontario

Land Titles Division of the Toronto Registry Office (No. 66)